
Wisconsin Legislative Council

ACT MEMO



Prepared by: Tom Koss, Senior Staff Attorney

August 18, 2025

2025 Wisconsin Act 30 [2025 Assembly Bill 242]

Tampering With Telecommunication or Electric Wires

2025 WISCONSIN ACT 30

Prior to the enactment of 2025 Wisconsin Act 30, state law prohibited taking various actions with respect to the property of any telegraph, telecommunications, electric light, or electric power company. Act 30 prohibits taking the same actions with respect to the property of any video service, broadband service, or wireless service company. Act 30 also increases some of the penalties for violating some of these prohibitions.

First, prior law prohibited intentionally removing or changing any building or other structure or any timber to which any telegraph, telecommunications, electric light, or electric power lines or wires are in any manner attached, or causing the same to be done and consequently destroying, disturbing, or injuring the wires, poles, or other property of any telegraph, telecommunications, electric light, or electric power company, without first giving the company, at its office nearest the place of injury, at least 24 hours' notice thereof. Act 30 prohibits taking the same actions with respect to any video service, broadband service, or wireless service company.

Second, prior law prohibited intentionally breaking down, interrupting, or removing any telegraph, telecommunications, electric light, or electric power line or wire. Act 30 prohibits taking the same actions with respect to any video service, broadband service, or wireless service company line or wire, and increases the penalty for doing so from a Class B misdemeanor to a Class I felony.

Third, prior law prohibited destroying, disturbing, interfering with, or injuring the wires, poles, or other property of any telegraph, telecommunications, electric light, or electric power company. Act 30 prohibits taking the same actions with respect to the wires, poles, or other property of any video service, broadband service, or wireless service company, and increases the penalty for doing so from a Class B misdemeanor to a Class I felony.

Fourth, prior law prohibited intentionally making or causing to be made a physical electrical connection with any wire, cable, conduct, ground, equipment, facility or other property of any telegraph, telecommunications, electric light, or electric power company. Act 30 prohibits taking the same actions with respect to any wire, cable, conduct, ground, equipment, facility or other property of any video service, broadband service, or wireless service company, and increases the penalty for doing so from a Class A misdemeanor to a Class I felony.

Effective date: August 10, 2025

For a full history of the bill, visit the Legislature's [bill history page](#).

TK:jal